



*Visitors guide and map*

# Under **THE NUT**

**STANLEY HERITAGE WALK**



Explore the historic village of Stanley and uncover its past in the footsteps of Stanley-born writer and artist Meg Eldridge. The walk is self-guided and explores the history, architecture and culture of this diverse village, enhanced with QR code technology and any internet enabled device. This guide reveals the locations. As you discover them, simply scan the codes using QR code scanning software on your device or visit [www.stanleyheritagewalk.com.au](http://www.stanleyheritagewalk.com.au) to access content about your surroundings.

## QR code?

A QR (Quick Response) code is a two-dimensional barcode which can be read by free applications which you can download for most smart phones.

SCAN HERE



## ABOUT Meg

Marguerite 'Meg' Lily Eldridge OAM (1921 – 2013) was one of Stanley's most respected and admired residents.

Her mother was an accomplished artist and encouraged her daughter to develop this skill, little knowing that in 1976 Meg would enthuse a local committee to establish an Arts Festival which became a very successful annual event until 1992. The festival attracted countless visitors, contributing substantially to the evolution of Stanley as a major tourist destination.



Both her parents were very community minded people and Meg certainly followed in their footsteps. Among Meg's achievements were the establishment of the **Stanley Discovery Museum & Genealogy Centre** in 1973, and later **Joe Lyons Cottage** in 1988. She enlisted willing helpers to make these projects possible and, to her credit, they remain popular attractions. It is unlikely that the town of Stanley would have survived as the 'jewel' that it is today without Meg's lifetime of unstinting enthusiasm, devotion and dedication.



Explore the village at your own pace. The Stanley Heritage Walk is a loop which starts at Marine Park, but may be commenced at any of the fifteen locations, and takes around one hour to complete. Get a local's insight and hear interesting stories not published in guidebooks.



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## ABOUT Stanley

Located in far North West Tasmania, Circular Head municipality – The Edge of the World – covers an area of 4,917km<sup>2</sup>.

The area gained its name from the unusual land formation commonly known as ‘The Nut’ at Stanley, the solidified lava lake of a long-extinct volcano. The Nut was sighted by Bass and Flinders on their historic circumnavigation of Tasmania in 1798. It is possible to reach to the top of The Nut via a steep track or chairlift.

Aboriginal Australians inhabited parts of Tasmania for many thousands of years and moved up and down the coast. The North West tribe consists of eight bands ranging from Table Cape to the Pieman.

In 1825 the Van Diemen’s Land Company was granted land in north-western Van Diemen’s Land, including the Stanley area. Employees of the company from England settled in the area in October 1826. It was named after Lord Stanley, the British Secretary of State for War and the Colonies in the 1830s and 1840s, who later had three terms of office as British Prime Minister.



A port opened in 1827 and the first school opened in 1841. The Post Office opened on 1 July 1845; it was known as Circular Head until 1882. In 1880 the first coach service between Stanley and Burnie was established. In 1936 a submarine telephone cable from Apollo Bay to Stanley provided

the first telephone to Tasmania from the mainland. Today Stanley is the main fishing port on the north-west coast of Tasmania. Tourists regularly travel to Highfield Historic Site (a historic home on the north west of the township) to view the picturesque northern beaches with The Nut in the background.



## Nº 1 MARINE PARK

WHARF RD

Your walk begins at Marine Park overlooking Little Wharf where the bustling life of old Stanley was once centred, and on Wharf Road where Meg Eldridge, the town's most famous writer and artist grew up in the 1920s.

Imagine the wharf busy with produce boats carrying prized Circular Head potatoes heading for mainland ports. And cray boats unloading their catch from ketches all named after women: *Ada Burgess*, the *Lady Brassey*, and later the *Rita Mae* or *Ella Rose*.



Meg and friends, 1928





## Nº 2 POETS COTTAGE

6 ALEXANDER TCE



*Poet's Cottage was built in 1849 by John Lee Archer and originally intended for one of George IV's illegitimate sons.*

As the colonial architect for Van Diemen's Land, John Lee Archer was responsible for many of Tasmania's important government buildings including Parliament House, Hobart. When the town of Stanley was officially created in 1842, so named after the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Stanley, Lee Archer had a change

of career and was appointed police magistrate for the Circular Head district. During his ten-year tenure he also helped design the town and mapped the streets of the thriving commercial seaport. You can see copies of these maps at the Stanley Discovery Museum & Genealogy Centre up the road.



## Nº 3 JOE LYONS COTTAGE

*This Cottage was the birthplace and childhood home of Joseph Lyons, a former Premier of Tasmania (1923–28) and Tasmania's first Prime Minister of Australia (1932–39).*

### 14 ALEXANDER TCE



This simple, single-storey weatherboard home was a humble beginning for a man who went on to become one of Australia's most popular Prime Ministers. You can tour the house, looked after now by volunteers who will tell you how the man who came to be known as 'Honest Joe' was born to Irish immigrant parents from County Galway; how he went to the old bluestone school in Stanley, and how he taught there, too.

see also **GULL COTTAGE**



### 40 ALEXANDER TCE

Meg lived at Lyons Cottage for the first three years of her married life with her first husband, Albert Close, but spent most of her life, from 1945 onwards, a little further up the road at Gull Cottage. The 1870s home was left to Meg by her grandparents George and Lily, and she named it after the film *The Ghost and Mrs Muir*.



## Nº 4 BAY VIEW HOTEL

16 ALEXANDER TCE

*The Bay View Guesthouse started life in true Irish style as The Shamrock Inn in 1849. At one stage, Stanley was home to five pubs, but the Bay View was closest to the bustling wharf with one of the best views of the bay.*

The first license for the part-stone, part-weatherboard hotel was issued to Michael Lyons, who was engaged by the Van Diemen's Land Company to manage the large cattle run at Woolnorth. Michael was the grandfather of former Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, so it's possible that Joe Lyons drank his first beer at the bar here.





## Nº 5 CAPTAIN'S COTTAGE

30 ALEXANDER TCE



*Many a ship's captain has lived in Stanley, but only one cottage bore the name of Captain's Cottage, perhaps because it was the first built in the early 1830s.*

The bluestone cottage was purchased by Captain Frederick Burgess, in the 1920s, and passed into the hands of other seafarers and their families, including an old sea captain who Meg remembers having fingers 'like sausages – uncooked'. Crayfish and shark were plentiful off the town in the 1940s and it was said that 'cut lunch' fishermen could pull in a good catch and be tied up at Fisherman's Dock by nightfall. Stanley, with its impressive deep-water facility, is still a major fishing port with an immense love of history. Here you can still see crays being caught in traditional hand-woven tea tree pots.



## No 6 CHURCH STREET SHOPS

4-8 CHURCH ST

*This snug row of little shops in Church Street first showed up in photographs in 1860 and still serve the town today.*

Although Stanley's streetscape is remarkably preserved today, sadly, many buildings have not stood the test of time, including the Produce Hall, the first mill, the timber kilns, and A.C. Smith & Sons' General Store, all of which were destroyed over the years by fire. Here, doors open early and close late to local and passing trade,

just as they did in times gone by when passengers from the steamers used to stretch their legs, strolling through the town's well-laid out streets, before sailing on to distant ports.



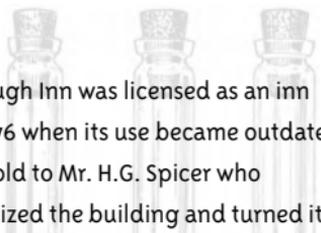
## No 7 THE PLOUGH INN

35 CHURCH ST

*One of Stanley's oldest buildings, the Plough Inn was built by the Van Diemen's Land Company to house overnight travellers from Hobart.*

Although the exterior walls are plastered now, underneath you'll find thick bluestone walls characteristic of many of the town's earliest buildings. Facilities were basic – there was no kitchen nor inside toilet back then. And a baker's oven located on the side next to the Church was used to bake bread for the entire village.

The Plough Inn was licensed as an inn until 1876 when its use became outdated. It was sold to Mr. H.G. Spicer who modernized the building and turned it into a pharmacy. The old inn bar became a dispensary, dispensing lotions, potions and medicinal treatments to the town for over fifty years.





## Nº 8 ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

39 CHURCH ST



*The original St Paul's Anglican Church of 1842 was designed by colonial architect John Lee Archer and consecrated by Bishop Nixon, the first Bishop of Tasmania.*

Later, the stone church had to be demolished due to cracks appearing in the walls – salt water was likely used in the mortar – and in 1887 it was replaced by the present timber structure. In the 1970s Meg established the Discovery Centre in the old Parish Hall next door where the stories of Circular Head and its marine and pioneering history are preserved and kept. If you'd like to take a look inside the Church ask for the key from the knowledgeable volunteers at The Discovery Centre.

## Nº 9 COMMERCIAL HOTEL



28 CHURCH ST



*The Commercial Hotel was among the first hotels in Stanley, originally built as the officers' mess for the Van Diemen's Land Company.*

The weatherboard and stone building was first licensed in 1847 to James Ferguson and operated as a hotel until the 1960s. Its cobblestone cellars are still evident, one in either wing.

Stanley's hotels thrived after the Second World War when the town itself was busy and business was booming at both mill and port. The Commercial was where townspeople came to play billiards, where fishermen would swap stories of West Coast storms and record catches of shark and lobster over a whisky or two in the corner bar, and it was where families gathered to meet friends.



## Nº 10 BURIAL GROUND

BROWNS RD

*The Stanley Burial Ground is the final resting place of many important figures in Stanley's history.*

It nuzzles up to The Nut with views over 'the top beach' at Godfrey's, where surfing carnivals were once held, and on over Green Fields to Highfield House. You will find, if you open the latch on the white picket gate, and stroll through the grounds at your own pace, that many well known pioneer and settler families rest in this

historic cemetery in the shade of two old Norfolk Island pines. The most famous tombstones bear the names of colonial architects John Lee Archer and Henry Hellyer, as well as surveyor James Gibson who surveyed most of the town in the 1830s and 40s. These gentlemen, who helped develop the Van Diemen's Land Company, are remembered humbly.



## Nº 11 ST JAMES' PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6 FLETCHER ST

*St James' Presbyterian Church sits on top of the hill with views east to Tatlow's Beach and west to Godfrey's on an acre of land granted by the Van Diemen's Land Company.*

The building itself was bought in London in 1855 – the first pre-fabricated church to be brought to Tasmania – and transported to Stanley at a total cost of £400.

Stand back and admire the simplicity of the seaside church and the hall next door – brought from the nearby township of Forest – and their matching cornflower blue doors. On Anniversary days the church would overflow while the hall next door was frequently booked for wedding breakfasts and church fairs.

## Nº 12 MARY BOGUE'S GRAVE



CORNER FLETCHER ST



In this paddock adjoining St James' Presbyterian Church lies the grave of Mary Bogue, a Tasmanian aboriginal woman also known as Black Mogg.

Her death is surrounded by myth and legend, but Meg details the tragic tale of Mary Bogue in her bestselling book *Historic Stanley*.

Mary lived with David Howie, a former convict turned constable for Bass Strait, and the master of the cutter bearing his name. On 20 August 1851, Howie, Mary and their infant son were making a voyage from Robbins Island, to Stanley aboard the *David Howie* when it was caught in a sudden squall rounding the Nut, capsized and sank. Howie was rescued, but sadly the bodies of Mary and her son David were found trapped in the cabin when the cutter was raised.



## Nº 13 THE RECTORY

10 PEARSE ST

*Formerly ‘The Parsonage’, this cottage was built in 1843 for the recently arrived Church of England Minister, The Reverend Thomas Grigg, and his family.*

As a rectory it was home to Anglican ministers serving Stanley and the surrounding area until 1983. Now a private residence, visitors are welcome at the art gallery housed in the original kitchen at the rear of the property. In springtime, the Rectory garden has always been a picture, with English lavender hedgerows and cottage garden poppies, daisies and irises.

This photograph from Meg’s teenage years shows her posing with friends in the garden; Marguerite (Meg) with Daphne and Iris. Their names inspired them to pose and title the picture ‘Three Flowers’ after a popular ladies’ fragrance of the day.



## Nº 14 VDL COMPANY STORE

16 WHARF RD



Colonial architect and Stanley resident John Lee Archer designed and built this store in 1843 for the Van Diemen's Land Company, formed in 1825, with the hope of providing a cheap supply of wool to British factories.

His trademark architectural symmetry is evident in this bluestone building, which later served as a place of detention, a customs house, a butter factory and a fish-processing factory, and is now a boutique hotel. Meg remembers the days when her mother,

Margaret, sent her young daughter to the VDL store to fetch a pound of fresh butter. Horses and carts would be lined up at the front door to collect butter and cream for the family's kitchen table: "Six pence a pound, thank you!"



## No 15 THE BOND STORE

17 WHARF RD

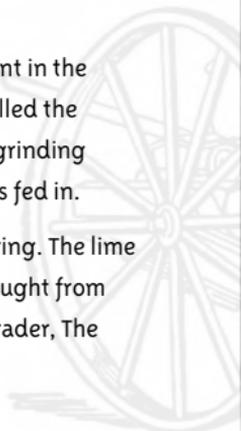


*The bluestone Bond Store was built as a customs store in 1835 with Baltic pine and stone recycled from the ballast of early sailing ships.*

This is where ships would dock, and all the supplies suitable for a gentleman's country estate were unloaded and stored before being carted to the chief agent's residence at Highfield House. After serving as a store for many years, it was subsequently used as a bacon factory, and in more recent times a grain store,

part of which is still evident in the building today. Meg recalled the clatter-clatter of the big grinding machines as the grain was fed in.

Look closely at the rendering. The lime was made from shells brought from Hunter Island in the old trader, The Prince of Wales.



For further information about Stanley or the locations included in the walk contact **Smithton Visitor Information Centre**  
12 Nelson Street, Smithton  
TASMANIA 7330 Australia  
Phone 1300 138 229  
[www.stanleyandtarkine.com.au](http://www.stanleyandtarkine.com.au)

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